



Kenneth A. Gibson

MAYOR

NEWARK, NEW JERSEY

07102

FOR RELEASE SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1975
CONTACT: BERNARD MOORE: (201) 733-3687

**STATEMENT BY MAYOR KENNETH A. GIBSON
ON THE NEED FOR CITY EMPLOYEES TO RE-
SIDE IN NEWARK**

"Our administration has spoken quite often of revitalizing the City of Newark.

"In an effort to do this, we have taken many steps. The Newark Economic Development Corporation (NEDC) was formed to bring business and industry into Newark to provide jobs. The Housing Development and Relocation Corporation (HDRC) was formed to stimulate housing. The Newark Housing Authority has stepped-up its activities. Various community corporations have taken the initiative and developed housing on parcels of land in Newark. We have revamped our ambulance system in order to get persons in need of help to the hospital faster. The Newark Board of Education, with the assistance of the state, is restructuring the administrative procedures for our educational system.

"I consider all of these things to be positive.

"I consider city employees residing in Newark as another positive step toward revitalizing the city. I cannot overlook the fact that there are city employees who are exempt from living in the city; but this is a matter of law. Certainly, the same positive contributions other city employees could make to the City of Newark by living here could also be made by policemen, firemen and teachers.

-MORE-

add one

"Cities are dynamic because of the many different types of people which comprise them.

"It has been acknowledged that Newark needs a larger middle class. Many city employees earn salaries which place them in this category. City employees could serve as the catalysts to stabilize a middle class in Newark. Once we have established a larger middle class in Newark, we could attract the full range of social and cultural activities which would benefit all Newark citizens.

"Every two weeks the city pays out a considerable amount of money in salaries. If city employees lived in Newark, this would help to stimulate business -- from banking to barber shops.

"Moreover, it would be a great incentive for people employed by the city to truly be concerned about the quality of services the city provides. This applies even to those employees who are presently exempt by law. For example: (1) If everyone working in the Division of Sanitation had to walk the streets of Newark, they would certainly be interested in making sure that they were clean. (2) It is obvious to me that police community relations would be better if all policemen were a part of the community.

"If all people holding high-level jobs in the administration lived in Newark, they would provide positive examples for young people to be inspired by. The youngsters on my street gain some sense of pride in their neighborhood because the Mayor lives down the block.

add two

"I would hope that every city employee would understand that enforcing the residency requirement is not an effort to get rid of them; but much to the contrary, it is an effort to bring them closer and make them a real part of the community they serve."